

A WORD FROM ILLINOIS DCFS

Many changes are occurring to the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) Rules and Standards regarding Day Care Homes, Group Day Care Homes and Day Care Centers (407). In regard to Rule 408 Group Day Care Homes, the fire prevention inspections are now being completed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Many local fire prevention authorities lacked consistency and coordination with the OSFM standards. Day Care Homes (406) were done by Licensing Representatives creating at times a great deal of confusion. OSFM will now complete fire safety and prevention inspections for all multi-level, unusual or complex homes. Licensing Representatives will continue to complete the Fire Safety Inspections for single-floor homes, but they will be trained by the OSFM.

Effective January 1, 2011 new Day Care Home (406) applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. Rule 406 will also require new applicants of Day Care Home licenses to have 15 hours of pre-service training before the application is approved for licensure. The pre-training hours must include First-Aid & Safety, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) Child Abuse Prevention, Shaken Baby Syndrome and Sudden Infant Death, and Child Development related topics.

Day Care Home standard (406) requires smoke detectors to be installed inside each room where children nap or sleep. The old code required that smoke detectors be placed within 15 feet of rooms where children nap. The new rule also requires that the homes must be maintained in good repair and provide a safe environment for children. Licensees will also be required to offer a safe and comfortable range of air temperatures within the home during summer and winter months.

Rules 406, 407 and 408 revisions comply with the Missing Children Records Act (325 ILCS 50/5) that requires the parent or guardian to provide a certified copy of the child's birth certificate within 30 days after enrollment for a child being enrolled in a day care for the first time. The licensee will be required to report to the Illinois State Police any child who enters day care without the required records and report any knowledge of the whereabouts of any missing child that has been enrolled in the day care program.

Effective January 1, 2011 all licensed facilities, Day Care Homes, Group Day Care Homes and Day Care Centers are required to post licensing violations in a prominent area of the home or center to be viewed by parents and guardians until all violations have been corrected.

The Sunshine Project at: <https://sunshine.dcfs.illinois.gov/> is now available online. Information regarding complaints and violations of rules and standards by licensed day care facilities can be viewed on the Sunshine Website.

For questions about licensing rules and standards please contact your local licensing office.

To find your local licensing office please call **1.877.746.0829**.